US Army Corps
of Engineers
Northwestern Division

NEPA/Planning Workshop

September 14, 2004

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Northwestern Division

Case Studies

- Missouri River Master Manual
- Columbia River System Operation Review
- NEPA/Planning Observations

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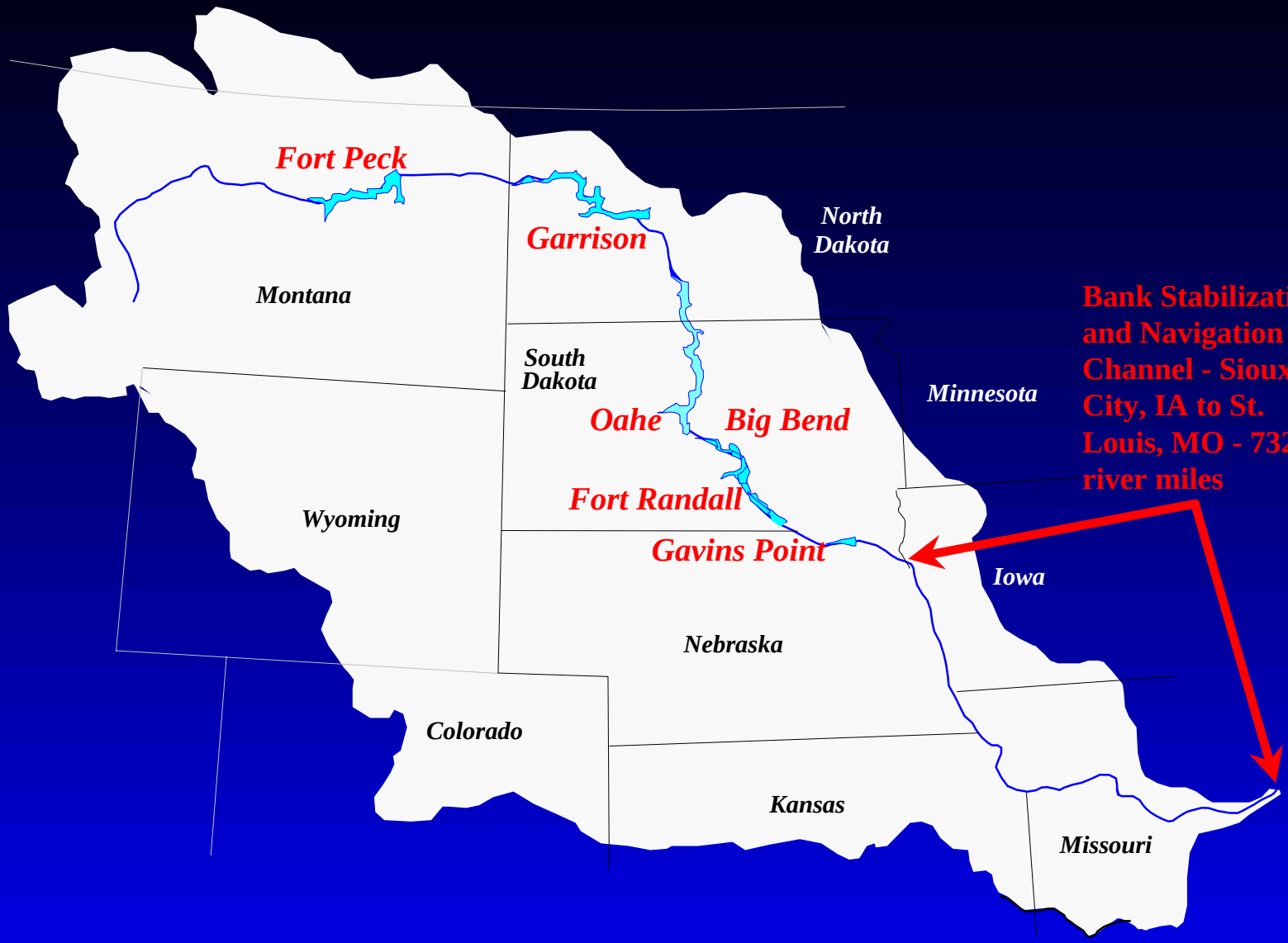
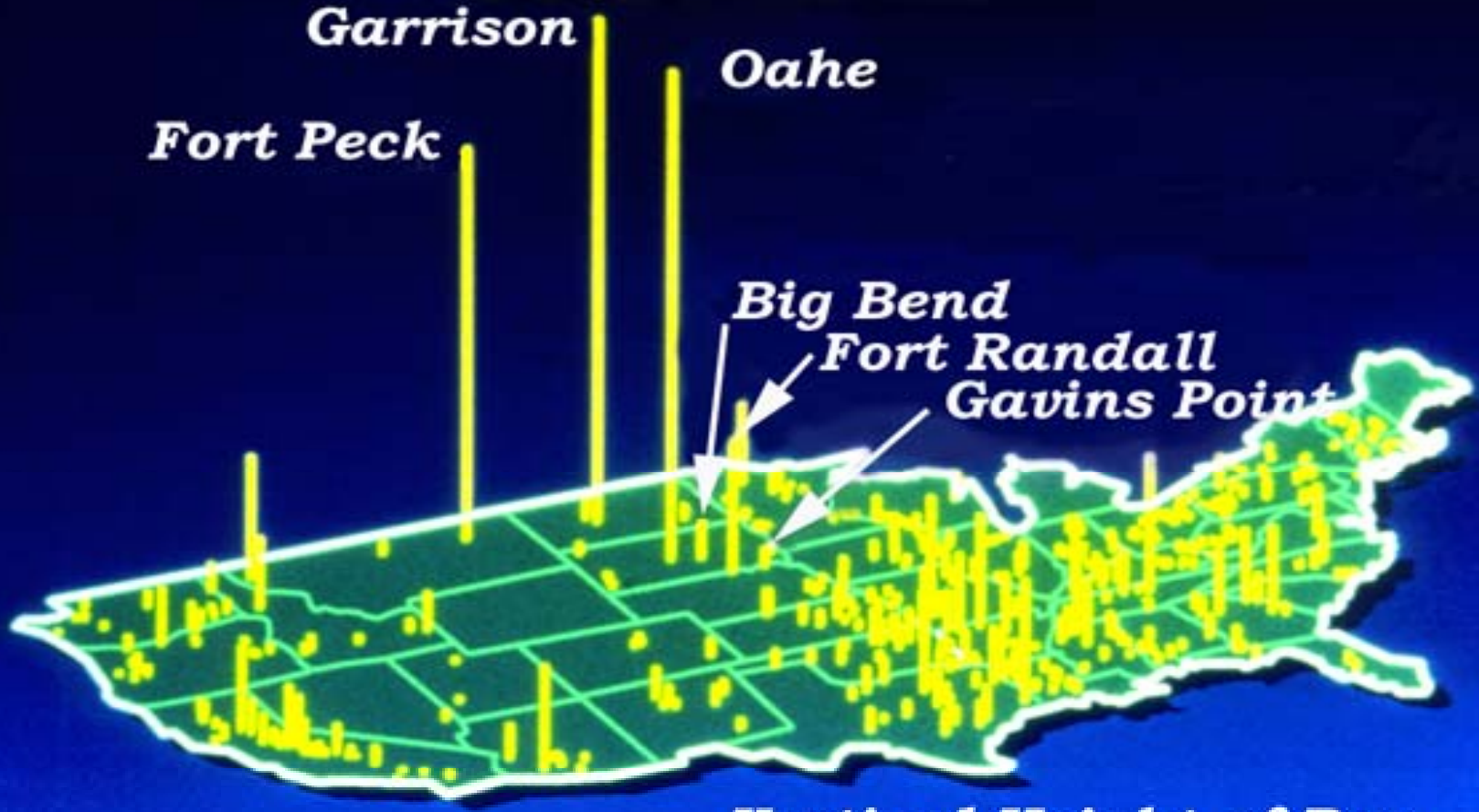
Missouri River Mainstem System



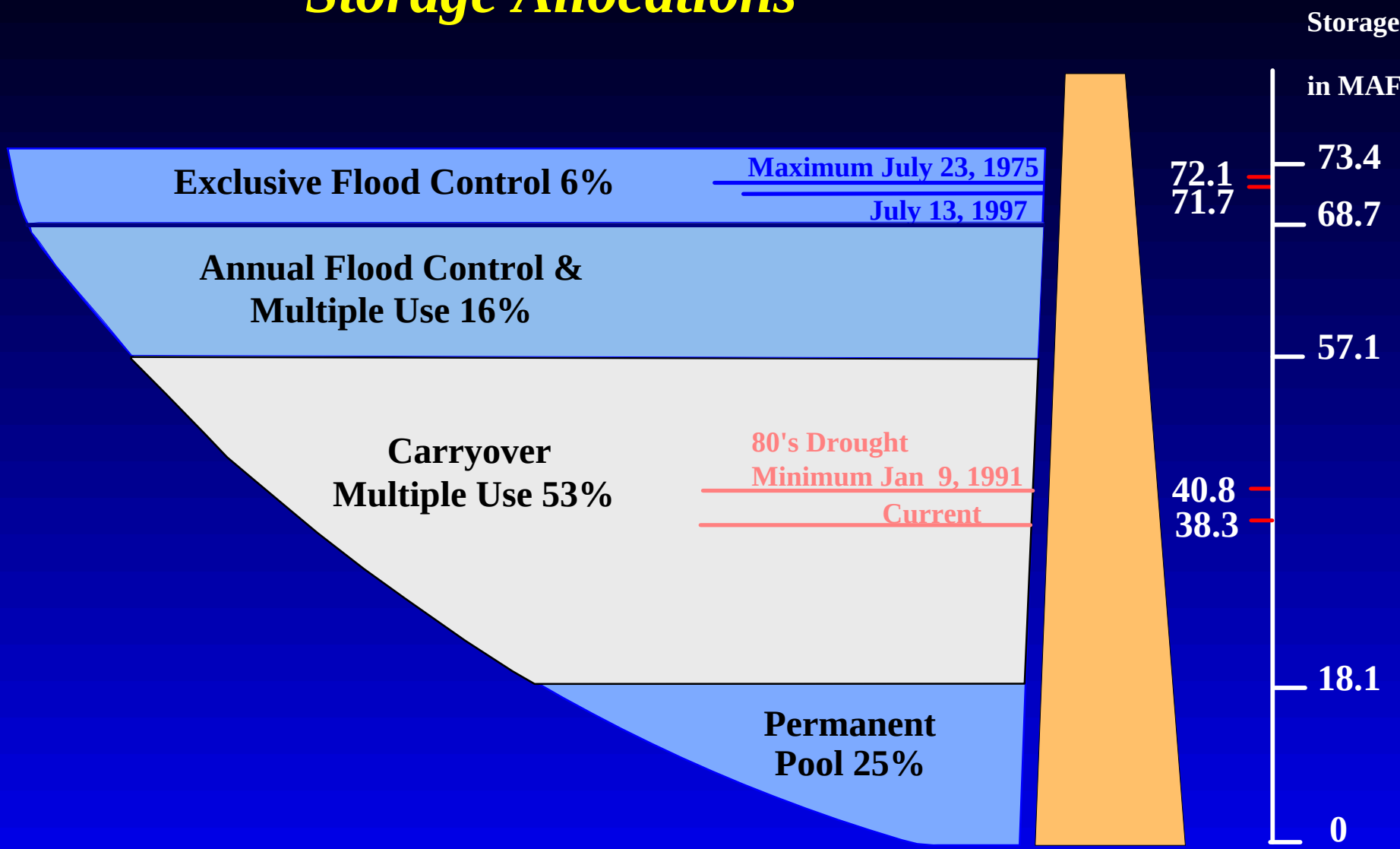
Bank Stabilization and Navigation Channel - Sioux City, IA to St. Louis, MO - 732 river miles

Water Management Office, 12565 West Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144-3869
Internet Address: http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil

Storage Capacity of Corps Lakes



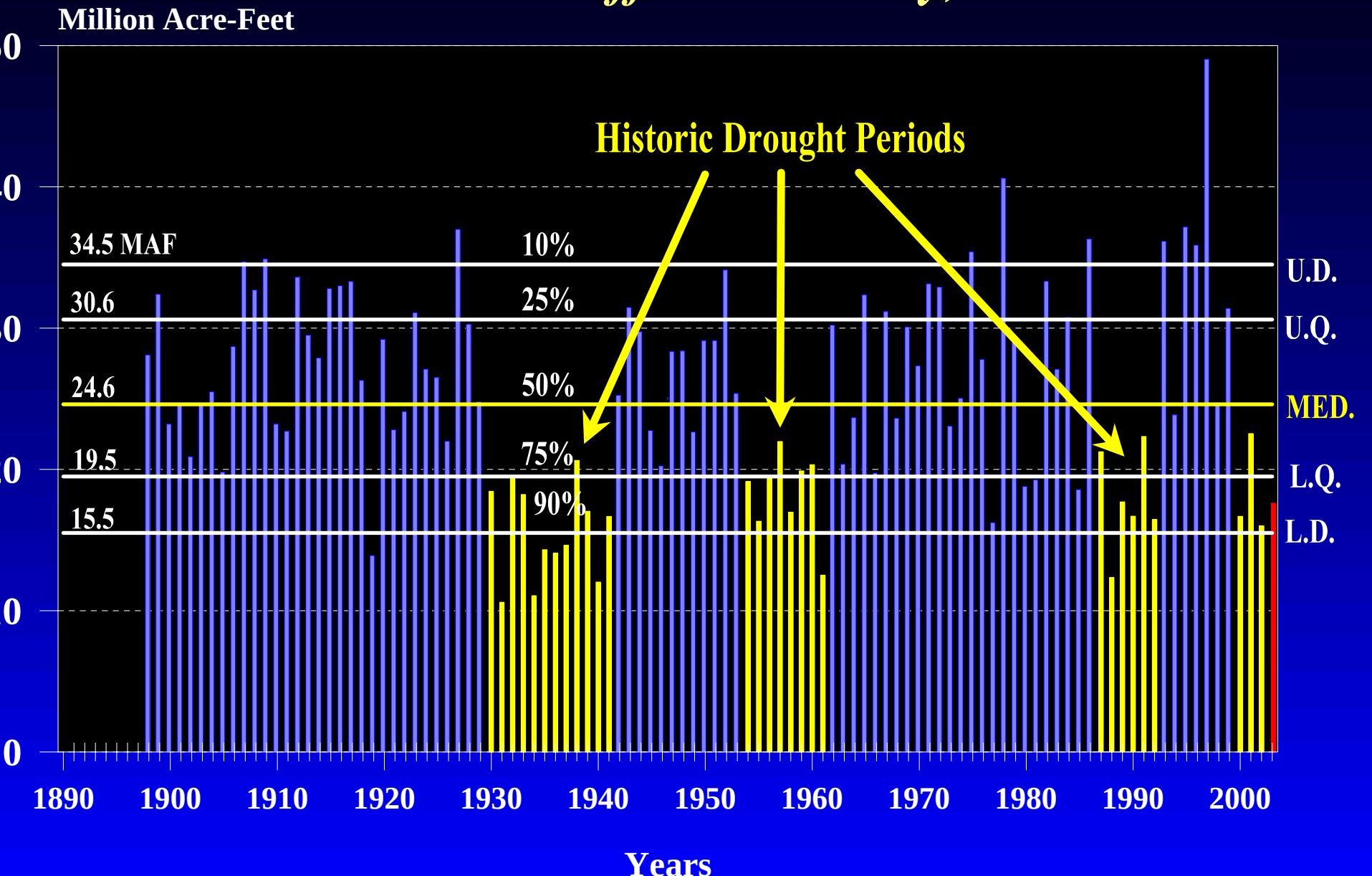
Missouri River Mainstem System Storage Allocations



Total Storage = 73.4 MAF

Missouri River Mainstem

Annual Runoff at Sioux City, Iowa

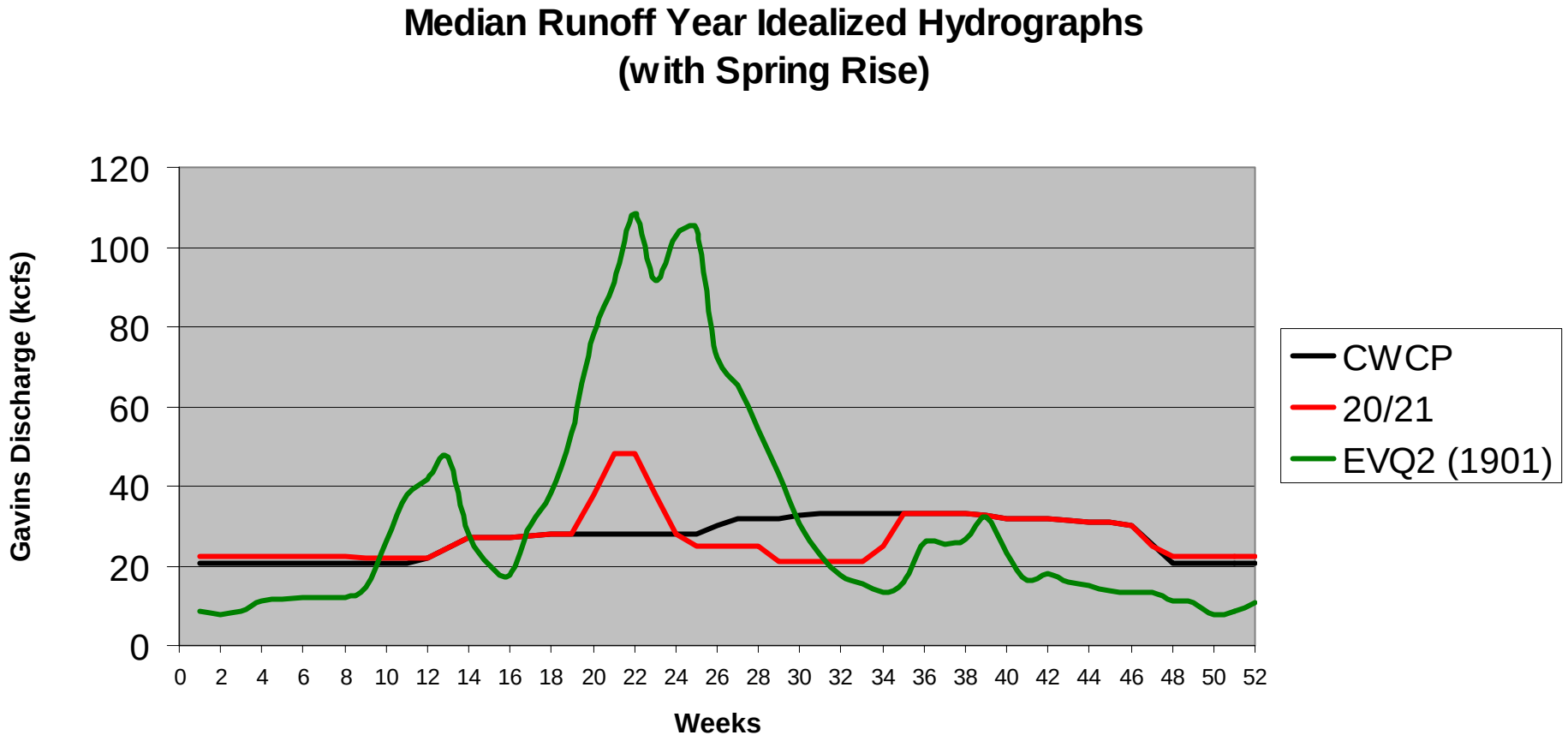


Interior Least Tern

Piping Plover

Pallid Sturgeon

RPA System Release Modifications



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Missouri River Master Manual EIS Observations

- 15 year process with changing problem statement and scope of alternatives
- Draft EISs
  - 3 drafts plus final
  - No preferred plan in drafts
- Court driven schedule (15-day public review of FEIS)
- Selected Plan
  - Meets ESA
  - Contains drought conservation measures
  - Adaptive Management

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Operating Strategies

- Pre-ESA Operation (Optimum power)
- 94 ESA Operations
- Stable storage operations
- Natural River Operations (year round or partial)
- Fishery Agencies Options
- Preferred Alternative (95 BiOps)

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Columbia River SOR EIS Observations

- No without action alternative
- Wide range of operational alternatives
- Concurrent ESA consultation/NEPA to address changes in operations (OA/EIS, SEIS)
- Provides wide discretion for making operational changes (ROCASODs)

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Key Messages

- NEPA is procedural

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- NEPA is procedural
- Range of Alternatives

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Key Messages

- NEPA is procedural
- Range of Alternatives
- Focus on Issues

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Key Messages

- NEPA is procedural
- Range of Alternatives
- Focus on Issues
- Tell your story

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Key Messages

- NEPA is procedural
- Range of Alternatives
- Focus on Issues
- Tell your story
- Risks

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Other Topics

- RODs – who signs, etc
- Time for publishing and distribution
- Gov't to Gov't Consultation
- Cumulative Impacts
- Cooperating Agencies
- Environmental significance – EA v. EIS
- Others?